(iii) Efforts are also being made to develop an anti-theft elastic rail clip and fish bolt fastening.

**Metre gauge lines in Tamil Nadu**

440. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the length of metre gauge rail lines is more in Tamil Nadu especially in Thanjavur region, as compared to other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the proposals of Government and the financial allocations for early conversion of those metre gauge rail lines into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) As per the latest available figures (as on 31.3.2001), the total length of metre gauge rail lines (route kilometres) in Tamil Nadu is 2145 kms which forms 14.3% of the total metre gauge route kilometres of All Indian Railways. Region-wise data of route kilometres, within a State, is not maintained.

(b) The details of ongoing gauge conversion projects, in the State of Tamil Nadu, are as under:—

| S. No. | Name of Projects | Length (in kms.) | Budget outlay for 2002-03 (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Thanjavur-Villupuram | 192 | 5 |
| 2. | Trichy-Manamadurai | 150 | 2 |
| 3. | Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur, Tenkasi-Virdhunagar | 357 | 25 |
| 4. | Cuddalore-Salem | 191 | 15 |
| 5. | Trichy-Nagore-Karikkal | 200 | 13 |
| 6. | Villupuram-Katpadi | 161 | 1 |
| 7. | Villupuram-Pondicherry | 37 | 10 |
| 8. | Madurai-Rameswaram | 161 | 5 |